

Team Award: BVFRD Train Team: Melissa Ashby, Kevin Grottle, Shaun Kurry
 Chief's Award: Shaun Kerry
 President's Awards: Nancy Stone, Charlene Murphy

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in congratulating the department for 67 years of service and in thanking all of the brave volunteers who do not hesitate to drop everything when the community calls in need of help. To all of these men and women who put themselves in harm's way to protect our residents I say: "Stay safe".

HONORING THE COALITION FOR HEALTHY COMMUNITIES ON THEIR 20TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROBERT J. DOLD

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. DOLD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Coalition for Healthy Communities on their 20th Anniversary. The Cancer Treatment Centers of America at Midwestern Regional Medical Center assembled the Coalition of leaders in the Zion-Benton Township to effectively address the need to improve the health and wellness of our community.

The Coalition's focus is to provide the community with education on ways to access primary health care, sexual education, immunizations for young children, parental education, and adolescent substance abuse. The leaders of the Coalition are working hard to provide healthcare that extends beyond the walls of hospitals.

Mr. Speaker, the Coalition of Healthy Communities is essential to ensuring that Zion, Beach Park and Winthrop Harbor's residents receive the proper tools to lead a healthy, safe and fulfilling life. I offered my sincere thanks to the Coalition for their efforts over the last 20 years and wish them continued success in the future.

HONORING JOHN BROOKS SUPERMARKET AND NETTIE ALVARADO

HON. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor John Brooks Supermarket, and in particular, Nettie Alvarado for her exceptional customer service and dedicated commitment to our senior citizen community.

Since 1979, John Brooks Supermarket has prided itself as a locally owned and operated establishment. The John Brooks on Candeleria and 12th Street in Albuquerque, New Mexico, certainly takes on this persona; it's a neighborhood corner spot that caters to each of its customers on an individual level and takes great lengths to serve our senior community.

That's how I first heard about Nettie Alvarado, a radiant, compassionate woman who has spent thirty years of dedicated service to John Brooks' customers. Every Monday and

Thursday, store owner John Brooks and Nettie trade off delivering groceries to the senior community living at The Good Samaritan Society: Manzano Del Sol Village on 5201 Roma Avenue NE. These are crucial services for many of the seniors there who are unable to drive or take transportation to the grocery store.

Nettie takes this dedication one step further. Customers will inform her of a sick friend, disabled relative or struggling senior and it's not long before numbers are exchanged, a grocery list is filed and Nettie is off making deliveries. Nettie has earned a reputation for her selfless actions and genuine, heartfelt appreciation for others. When asked, Nettie will tell you "I want them to be taken care of" and has no qualms about dipping into her free time to ensure her beloved Albuquerque residents receive the services they need.

Nettie's sentiment towards others extends beyond age, gender, race, and socioeconomic status—it's universal. I am inspired to see that we have individuals like Nettie in our community and stores like John Brooks that put people first and serve our ailing seniors. By valuing our community and continuing these practices of goodwill and shared responsibility we will achieve a better tomorrow and build a stronger America.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF HEAD START

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor and pleasure to extend my sincerest congratulations to the students, parents, staff, and supporters of the Head Start program as they celebrate 50 remarkable years of eliminating poverty through education, services, and partnerships. Enrichment Services Program, Inc. (ESP) will celebrate Head Start's 50th anniversary on Thursday, May 7, 2015 at noon at the Columbus Convention and Trade Center in Columbus, Georgia.

After President Lyndon B. Johnson declared the War on Poverty in his 1964 State of the Union speech, Sargent Shriver, a key social and political figure, took the lead in assembling a panel of experts to develop a comprehensive child development program that would help communities meet the needs of disadvantaged preschool children. The brainchild of this panel was Head Start, a program designed to help break the cycle of poverty by providing preschool children of low-income families with the tools and resources to meet their emotional, social, nutritional, and psychological needs.

In 1965, the Office of Economic Opportunity launched an eight-week program called Project Head Start. Fifty years later, Head Start has served more than 30 million children, becoming an integral component of America's education system.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. is a community action agency that provides essential services to alleviate poverty levels, promote family stability, and gradually build self-sufficiency. It was established in 1964 and operated as the Community Action Development Committee. The Agency was incorporated in

1965 as the "Lower Chattahoochee Community Action Agency, Inc." In 1974, when President Gerald Ford signed the Head Start Economic Opportunity and Community Partnership Act, Head Start funding was allocated to local community action agencies such as ESP.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. administers the Early Head Start and Head Start programs within a nine-county area, including Chattahoochee, Clay, Harris, Muscogee, Quitman, Randolph, Stewart, and Talbot counties, located in Georgia, and Russell County in Alabama. Each year, ESP serves approximately 1,000 children ages 0–5 from low-income families.

The Head Start program has been essential to the early childhood development and forward progression of many children and their families. Head Start evaluates and works to improve six domains of early childhood development: social/emotional, physical, language, cognitive, literacy, and mathematics. Through Head Start, ESP addresses the basic needs of each child and prepares them for entry into kindergarten. ESP also encourages parent involvement by offering services such as family literacy functions and parental input into the curriculum.

In the 2013–2014 program year, children in ESP's Head Start program made remarkable accomplishments. In the Cognitive domain alone, an average of 96% of children exceeded growth range. There were 505 three- and four-year-olds who were ready to read by the end of the school year.

Enrichment Services Program, Inc. has done an outstanding job of administering the Head Start program in the area that it serves. Because of the dedication and commitment of the teachers and the staff, thousands of children have gone on to achieve greater heights in primary, secondary, and higher education than they otherwise would have done. I firmly believe that Head Start's outreach will continue to help preschool children and their families overcome the cycle of poverty to lead successful and productive lives.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me and the more than 730,000 residents of Georgia's Second Congressional District in expressing our profound gratitude to Enrichment Services Program, Inc. and to Head Start for working to improve educational outcomes for preschool children, which not only produces positive effects throughout their lives but also creates a ripple effect of improvement in the communities in which they live.

RECOGNIZING HERNDON-RESTON FISH, INC. AND THE 2015 "STAR FISH" HONOREES

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 1, 2015

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. and the 2015 "Star Fish" Honorees.

Since 1969, Herndon-Reston FISH, Inc. has provided Friendly, Instant, Sympathetic Help for neighbors in need in Reston and Herndon. FISH meets immediate critical needs for rental assistance, furniture, utilities, medical care, and other emergencies. FISH also manages a thrift shop, operates an information and referral service, and offers financial workshops to